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JOINES • KOTZ • RILEY • PRITCHETT
Krampus!

Previously in

Krampus!

'Twas first issue of KRAMPUS! and all through the book
The Secret Society of Santas was shook
Their magical powers had started to wane
Since somebody stole St. Nicholas's remains
The Sugarplum Fairies! Those saccharine thieves
Had much more than grave-robbing up their wisped sleeves
A sinister figure was ordering them round
As they battled Belsnickel and laid the smack down
The Santas were desperate. What on earth could they do?
But wise Father Christmas and Hoteiosho knew
They released the Krampus from his North Pole-based cell
Where he'd been imprisoned for raising some hell
They promised him freedom from shackles and chains
If the Krampus recovered the missing remains
The monster agreed but the Santas thought best
To strap on a Naughty Bomb to the Krampus's chest
With his flying wolf Stutgaard, the Krampus did go
To investigate just what Belsinckel might know
He was led to a locker, whose insides were stuffed
With lunatic theories and conspiracy fluff
But while Krampus was studying, he paid little mind
To a wooden assassin, creeping up from behind
Is it curtains for Krampus? Are his days alive through?
If you're curious, good thing you picked up Book Two.

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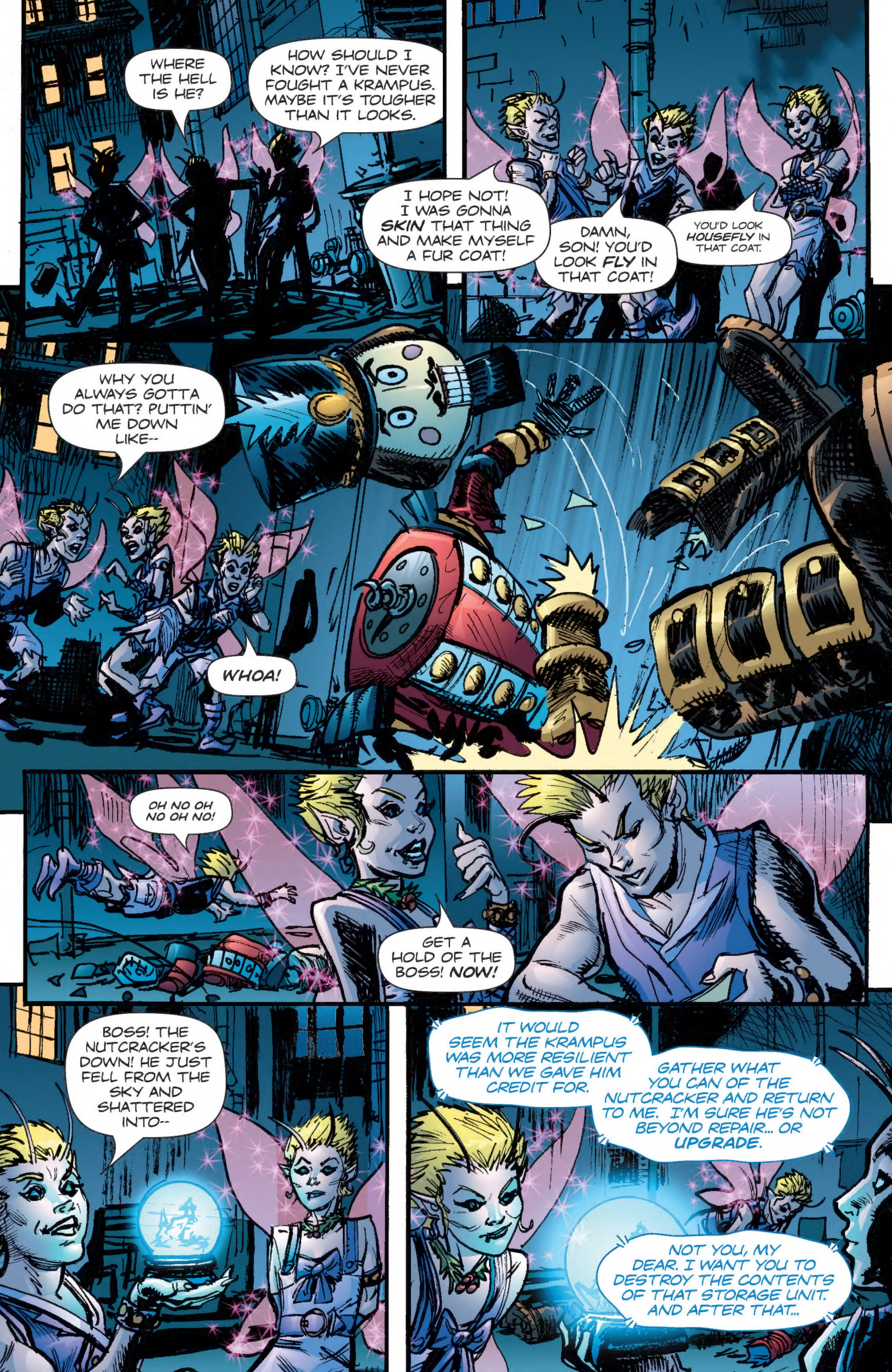
Bari, Italy.
WHAT DO YOU SEE, KRAMPUS?
WHAT I SEE IS A MESS...ZERE SEEMS TO BE NO RHYME OR REASON TO ZEE ORDER OF ZINGS.
ZERE ARE DOCUMENTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS, COVERED WITH INCOHERENT SCRAWLINGS. AND...
AND...

...AND I ZINK I NEED TO CALL YOU BACK.
KRAMPUS? KRAMPUS!
REALLY? I AM ZEE NIGHTMARE OF CHRISTMAS... ZEE TERROR LURKING INSIDE YOUR STOCKING... AND ZEY SEND A WOODEN SOLDIER TO KILL ME?
I WOULD HOPE TO RANK HIGHER ZAN ZEE BABES IN TOYLAND TREATMENT.
CONFIDENTIAL
NOT A TALKER, EH?
GOOD. AFTER ZEE SENSELESS YAMMERINGS OF ZEE SANTAS, IT IS REFRESHING TO GET A LITTLE PEACE...

...AND QUIE--
EAAAAGGGH!
GLLK!
WAIT... I KNOW YOU. YOU ARE NO SIMPLE WOODEN SOLDIER-OF-FORTUNE.
YOU ARE ZEE NUTCRACKER.
I'VE HEARD YOU SPOKEN OF IN ZEE SHADOWS; YOUR RUTHLESSNESS, YOUR COLD INDIFFERENCE TOWARDS YOUR VICTIMS.
NEEDLESS TO SAY, I AM A FAN.
OF COURSE, I CAN SEE ZAT CHANGING.

FGUH!
WHAT'S HAPPENING? KRAMPUS, ARE YOU--
SHUT UP, CHRISTMAS!
STUTGAARD! WHERE ARE YOU? I NEED YOU!
STUTGAARD!
I AM AFRAID ZAT I MUST APOLOGIZE, HERR NUTCRACKER.
IN ZEE TIME I WAS IMPRISONED, MY SKILLS HAVE ATROPHIED ON A DIET OF FATTY FOODS AND ZEE NICK AT NITE.
IT WOULD SEEM I HAVE BECOME SOFT.
STILL, I LOOK FORWARD TO A REMATCH, ONCE I HAVE HAD ZEE TIME TO GET BACK INTO FIGHTING SHAPE.
NOW, IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME...

...MY RIDE IS HERE.


WHERE THE HELL IS HE?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW? I'VE NEVER FOUGHT A KRAMPUS. MAYBE IT'S TOUGHER THAN IT LOOKS.
I HOPE NOT! I WAS GONNA SKIN THAT THING AND MAKE MYSELF A FUR COAT!
DAMN, SON! YOU'D LOOK FLY IN THAT COAT!
YOU'D LOOK HOUSEFLY IN THAT COAT.
WHY YOU ALWAYS GOTTA DO THAT? PUTTIN' ME DOWN LIKE--
WHOA!
OH NO OH NO OH NO!
GET A HOLD OF THE BOSS! NOW!
BOSS! THE NUTCRACKER'S DOWN! HE JUST FELL FROM THE SKY AND SHATTERED INTO--
IT WOULD SEEM THE KRAMPUS WAS MORE RESILIENT THAN WE GAVE HIM CREDIT FOR.
GATHER WHAT YOU CAN OF THE NUTCRACKER AND RETURN TO ME. I'M SURE HE'S NOT BEYOND REPAIR... OR UPGRADE.
NOT YOU, MY DEAR. I WANT YOU TO DESTROY THE CONTENTS OF THAT STORAGE UNIT. AND AFTER THAT...

"...I'VE GOT A VERY SPECIAL JOB FOR YOU."

KRAMPUS?

KRAMPUS!

GRRRRR...

CEASE YOUR PRATTLING, CHRISTMAS! I AM HERE.

I ZOUGHT IT BEST TO ***PASS OUT*** FOR A WHILE, WHAT WITH ZEE STABBING AND ZEE BLOOD LOSS AND ALL.

WERE YOU ABLE TO LEARN ANYTHING MORE FROM BELSNICKEL'S STORAGE UNIT?

I AM FINE, ZANK YOU FOR ASKING.

AND NO, I WAS UNABLE TO DECIPHER BELSNICKEL'S INSANITY BEFORE ZEE NUTCRACKER ATTACKED ME.

THE NUTCRACKER? WHAT WAS **HE** DOING THERE?

IT WOULD SEEM HE WAS ***WAITING*** FOR ME. HOPING TO PREVENT ME FROM LEARNING MORE ABOUT ZEE SO-CALLED CONSPIRACY.

HE WAS NOT ***ENTIRELY*** SUCCESSFUL.

I MANAGED TO GRAB A FEW SCRAPS FROM ZEE STORAGE UNIT BEFORE--

A FEW SCRAPS?!

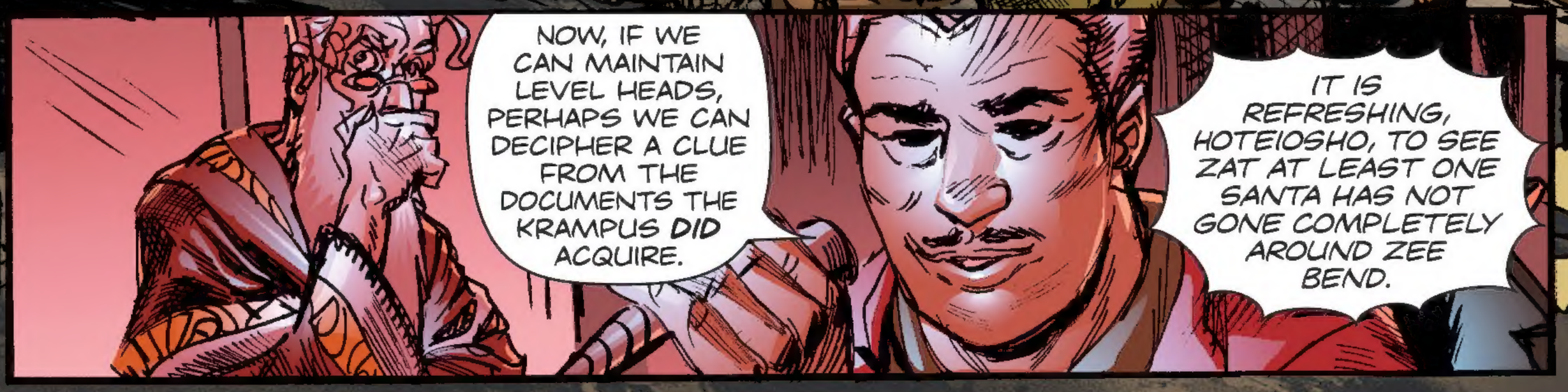
WHAT GOOD WILL A FEW SCRAPS DO IN--

YES, WHAT WAS I ZINKING, NOT ALLOWING MYSELF TO BE **KILLED** WHILE GATHERING CLUES?

PERHAPS YOUR PRECIOUS **ELVES** COULD HAVE--

TRUST US, KRAMPUS...

"YOU ARE A FAR BETTER OPTION THAN THE ELVES."



ANY IDEA WHAT ZEY MEAN?

THEY APPEAR TO BE COORDINATES... LONGITUDE AND LATITUDE MARKERS.

ACCORDING TO THIS, IT WOULD PUT YOU IN **NEPAL**. OR MORE SPECIFICALLY...

"...THE HIMALAYAS."

SO GLAD I LEFT ZEE NORTH POLE FOR ZIS.

IT'S ODD BELSNICKEL WOULD LIST THESE CO-ORDINATES...

OUR REPORTS SUGGEST NO ACTIVITY IN THAT PARTICULAR REGION, HUMAN OR OTHERWISE.

WHAT? YOU MEAN TO TELL ME ZERE ARE FACTS NOT EVEN ZEE VAUNTED **SOCIETY OF SANTA CLAUSES** ARE AWARE OF?

COLOR ME **SHOCKED.**

OF COURSE, ZERE IS ANOTHER POSSIBILITY: ZAT BELSNICKEL WAS A STARK, RAVING LUNA--

JUST A MOMENT.

WHAT IS IT?

A CRACK IN ZEE MOUNTAIN'S FACE! IT SEEMS TO BE ZEE SOLE SOURCE OF ZEE BLIZZARD I AM CURRENTLY FACING.

I AM ATTEMPTING TO GAIN ACCESS!

PROCEED WITH CAUTION, KRAMPUS. I DON'T NEED TO TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENS TO THE SOCIETY IF YOU--

YOUR CONCERN FOR MY WELLBEING IS **STAGGERING,** CHRISTMAS.

DO NOT **FRET.** AFTER MY ENCOUNTER WITH ZEE NUTCRACKER, BELIEVE ME WHEN I TELL YOU I AM PREPARED FOR...

...ANYTHING.

WHAT IS ZIS PLACE?

WHAT DO YOU SEE, KRAMPUS?

WELL, SHIT.
PROTECT THE KINGDOM!
KILL HIM!
STRIP HIM OF HIS FLESH AND FEED IT TO THE SNOW LEOPARDS!
"FEED IT TO THE--?" JESUS, FRANCIS...YOU'RE DRINKING AGAIN, AREN'T YOU?
NO! I WILL NOT ALLOW ZIS TO HAPPEN AGAIN!
IT IS ONE ZING TO SUFFER ZEE BEATDOWN BY A WOODEN MACHINATION OF DEATH.
BUT A SMATTERING OF ICE PIXIES?
I ZINK NOT!
NAUGHTY BOMB ARMED.
NO! NEIN! IT IS OKAY! I AM WALKING AWAY! NO NEED TO BE EXPLODING WITH ZEEEMMMPPHH!!
NAUGHTY BOMB DISARMED.
YOU SHOULD COUNT YOURSELF LUCKY, LAD, THAT YOUR WEE DEVICE DETERRED YOU FROM FURTHER COMBAT.
YOU MIGHT'VE HAD A FIGHTING CHANCE AGAINST MY FLURRIES...

...BUT TANGLING WITH ME WOULD'VE BEEN THE LAST MISTAKE YOUR "MIGHTY MEN AND MONSTER MAKER" ASS WOULD MAKE.
OLD MAN WINTER.
THAT'S RIGHT. AND TO BORROW A PHRASE FROM THE HUMAN VERNACULAR...
...GET OFF OF MY LAWN.

KRAMPUS! WHERE ARE YOU?
CLEARLY HE IS NOT RESPONDING, FATHER CHRISTMAS.
PERHAPS IT IS BEST TO LET HIM DEAL WITH WINTER ON HIS OWN. THEIR DEMEANORS ARE SIMILAR.
BUT IT MAKES NO SENSE! WE'VE PEACEFULLY CO-EXISTED WITH THE OLD MAN FOR CENTURIES!
WHAT POSSIBLE BENEFIT WOULD THERE BE TO ROBBING US OF OUR POWER?
LOOK AT THEM UP THERE...HATCHING THEIR PLANS, NOT A CARE IN THE WORLD FOR THE EVIL THEY'VE UNLEASHED.
THIS WOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED WHEN I WAS HEAD OF THE SOCIETY!
THAT MAY BE TRUE, SINTERKLAAS, BUT WHAT CAN YOU DO?
IT'S NOT AS IF YOU CAN SIMPLY TAKE BACK THE POSITION. UNLESS...
YES... UNLESS, MOS CRACIUN.
YOU HAVE THE EARS OF THE SANTAS, KAGHAND PAPIK. WHO DO YOU THINK MIGHT BE OPEN TO A... CHANGE?
HMMM...WELL, CHRISTMAS HAS THE SUPPORT OF AGIOS VASSILIS, KANAKALOKA, HOTEIOSHO, AND PERHAPS VADER KERSFEES.
BUT THE SANTAS THAT DEALT WITH THE KRAMPUS... DED MOROZ, WEIHNACHTSMANN, JOULUPUKKI... WOULD BE WITH US.
THEN I SUGGEST WE START GRABBING.
THE TWO OF YOU BEGIN MAKING INQUIRIES... PLANTING SEEDS. AND BY THE TIME WE'VE AMENDED THIS SACRILEGE...
THE REST? UP FOR GRABS.

"...THE KRAMPUS WILL WISH HE'D STAYED IN HIS CELL."

I WISH I'D STAYED IN MY CELL.

ENOUGH LOLLYGAGGING! YOU'D BEST BE TELLING ME WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE IN PERMA-FROST...

...BEFORE I FREEZE OFF YOUR ***JAWBONE*** AND USE IT FOR MY BREAKFAST CEREAL.

ZAT--YOU MEAN AS A ***BOWL*** OR ZEE ACTUAL CEREAL ITSELF OR--?

YOU KNOW WHAT? NO MATTER. I WILL TELL YOU.

TWO NIGHTS PRIOR, ZEE REMAINS OF SAINT NICHOLAS... ZEE ***SOURCE*** OF POWER FOR ZEE SOCIETY OF SANTA CLAUSES... WERE STOLEN.

BASED ON WHAT FEW CLUES WE HAVE...

...SIGNS POINT TO ***YOU.***

HAH HAH HAH!

NOW WHY WOULD I WANT SOMETHING ***STUPID*** LIKE THAT?!

WHAT? WHAT DO YOU--

YOU REALLY THINK I GIVE TWO DAMNS ABOUT THOSE GIFT-GIVING IDIOTS AT THE NORTH POLE? ***ME?!***

I'M A FORCE OF ***NATURE,*** LAD. THEY'RE BENEATH MY NOTICE.

ZEE PERSON GATHERING ZIS INFORMATION... HE HAD YOUR COORDINATES WRITTEN TO ZEE LETTER. WHY WOULD IT EVEN COME UP IF YOU ARE NOT INVOLVED?

HOW SHOULD I KNOW THAT? I'D HAZARD A GUESS HE WAS JUST A *MORON*.

IS ZERE ANYONE ELSE HERE WHO MIGHT WANT TO TAKE ZEE SANTAS' POWER?

ONE OF ZEE *FLURRIES* OR--

I--

AYE.

MY BOY, *JACK*.

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET HIM INTO THE FAMILY BUSINESS... BUT HE WANTS *NONE* OF IT.

HE'D RATHER GO OFF WITH HIS *HUMAN* FRIENDS AND GET INTO GOD KNOWS WHAT.

ANY IDEA WHERE ZEE BOY IS NOW?

LAST I HEARD, HE AND HIS FRIENDS WERE EN ROUTE TO *IBIZA*. SOMETHING ABOUT A NEVER-ENDING PARTY, I DON'T KNOW.

IF ANYONE IN PERMAFROST HAD A HAND IN STEALING THAT SKELETON, JACK'S YOUR MAN.

I APPRECIATE ZEE INFORMATION, WINTER. NOW, I SHALL TAKE MY--

WAIT.

IF YOU FIND THE BOY... AND HE *IS* INVOLVED... I BEG OF YOU, GO EASY ON HIM.

I STILL HOPE HE RETURNS ONE DAY, TO RULE BESIDE ME, ONCE THE MADNESS OF YOUTH HAS FADED.

AFTER ALL, THERE'S NOTHING MORE CORRUPTING OF PROGRESS THAN A *HOUSE DIVIDED*.

CHRISTMAS? ARE YOU ZERE?
KRAMPUS! WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT DID YOU FIND--
OLD MAN WINTER IS NOT BEHIND ZEE THEFT OF SAINT NICHOLAS. ZIS ENTIRE VENTURE...
...IT WAS A DEAD END.
THAT IS UNFORTUNATE TO HEAR. BUT YOU DO HAVE ANOTHER LEAD, CORRECT? WHAT IS YOUR NEXT STEP?
MY NEXT STEP IS TO CEASE ALL COMMUNICATIONS WITH YOU UNTIL I AM CERTAIN ZEE MISSION WILL NO LONGER BE COMPROMISED.
THAT SCENARIO IS UNACCEPTABLE, KRAMPUS. I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE PLAYING AT--
ZINK ABOUT IT, CHRISTMAS! HOW DID ZEE NUTCRACKER KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME? ZAT I WAS EVEN INVOLVED?
WHOM HAVE YOU TOLD OF YOUR PLANS, BEYOND YOUR FELLOW SANTA CLAUSES? ZEE ELVES? ZEE REINDEER, PERHAPS? DOUBTFUL.
ONE OF YOUR SANTAS HAS MADE ZEE NAUGHTY LIST. AND UNTIL YOU FIND WHICH ONE, ZESE LITTLE CHATS ONLY SERVE TO UNRAVEL MY EFFORTS.
I... I UNDERSTAND.
GOOD. NOW DO NOT CONTACT ME AGAIN UNTIL YOU HAVE FOUND ZEE TRAITOR. I SHALL NOT CONTACT YOU UNTIL I HAVE FOUND ZEE SKELETON.
KRAMPUS OUT.
ANY CHANCE I CAN GET ZEE BLIZZARD TURNED OFF WHILE I'M CLIMBING OUT OF HERE?
NO?
FANTASTIC.

I DON'T FEEL PARTICULARLY COMFORTABLE DOING THIS HERE.
JUST RELAX AND APPRECIATE THE IRONY: PLOTTING THE SOCIETY'S DOWNFALL IN THE VERY CELL THAT HOUSED ITS SAVIOR.
NOW, WHERE ARE WE?
EVENTS ARE IN MOTION.
THERE IS A GROWING FISSURE IN THE SANTAS' RANKS, WITH MANY UNHAPPY WITH FATHER CHRISTMAS'S DECISION REGARDING THE KRAMPUS.
THE IMPENDING COUP WILL PROVIDE JUST THE DISTRACTION WE NEED.
EXCELLENT.
BUT WHAT OF OLD MAN WINTER? SURELY, THE KRAMPUS MUST HAVE WARNED HIM.
HE'LL BE EXPECTING US!
AND AS FOR THE KRAMPUS HIMSELF... ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE.
"THE KRAMPUS HAS NO IDEA OF OUR PLANS FOR WINTER. HE PROBABLY CONSIDERED THE OLD MAN A SUSPECT."
"NO, WINTER WILL NEVER SEE US COMING..."
"...NOT UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE."

Ibiza.

AH, YOU SEE, STUTGAARD... ***ZIS*** IS WHAT I AM TALKING ABOUT!

ZEE SUN, BLAZING DOWN UPON US, WARMING US TO OUR VERY CORES. AND WITH NARY A HINT OF...

...SNOW.

WELL, ZAT LASTED ABOUT ***FIFTY SECONDS.***

ZERE! STUTGAARD, FOLLOW ZEE SNOWFLAKES! WE SHALL TRACK ZEM TO ZEIR SOURCE!

GRRRGH?

PLEASE, STUTGAARD, CALM YOURSELF! ZERE IS NO NEED TO WORRY, OLD FRIEND!

AFTER ZEE NUTCRACKER AND OLD MAN WINTER...

...HOW COULD ZIS ***POSSIBLY*** BE WORSE?

YRRP!

WHA--?!

NNTZZNNTZZNNTZZ

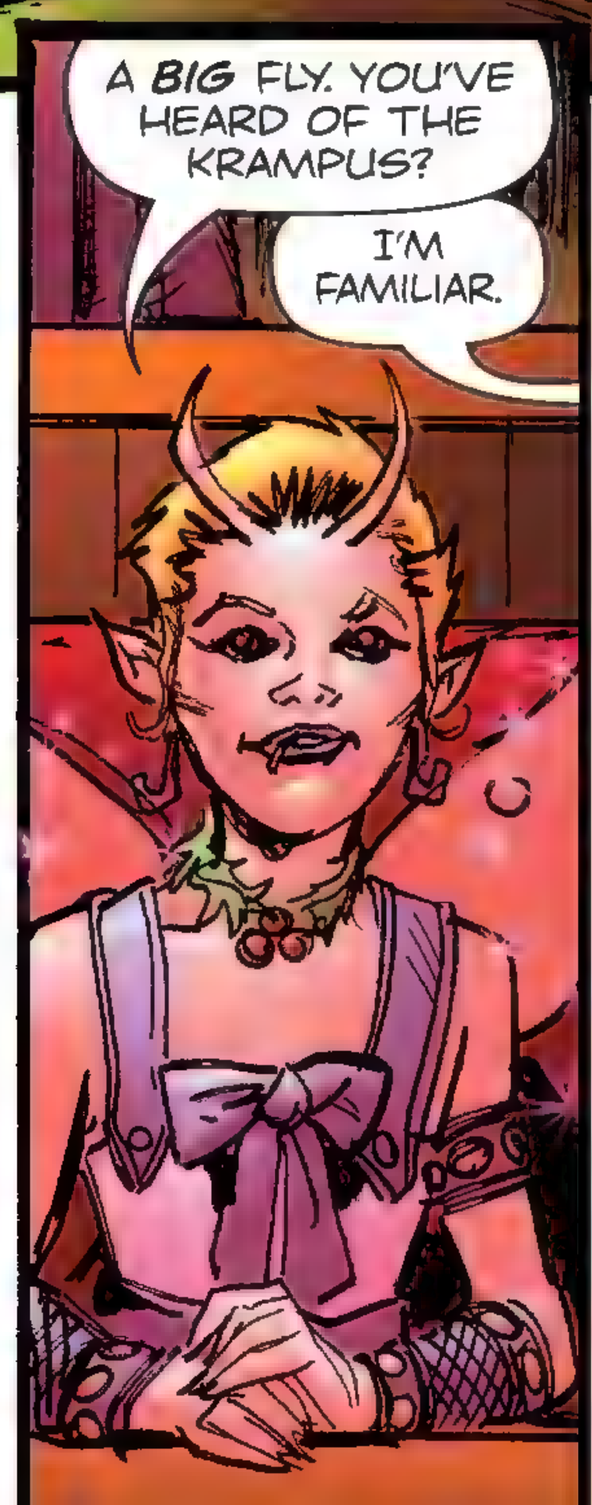
NTZZNNTZZNNTZZNNTZZNNTZZNNTZ
GAH!
NTZZNNTZZNNTZZNNTZZNNTZZNNTZ
STUTGAARD, I WAS WRONG!
NTZZNNTZZNNTZZNNTZZNNTZZNNTZ
ZIS IS MUCH WORSE.

Location Unknown.
HOLIDAY'S
"OH, BOSS..."
...WHERE DID YOU SEND ME?
I.D., PLEASE.
UM, I DON'T HAVE AN--
AH, I'M JUST JOSHIN' YA. WELCOME TA HOLIDAYS.
HEY. HEY!
HEY!
JUST BE POLITE AND KEEP YER NOSE CLEAN AND WE WON'T HAVE NO ISSUES.
WHADDAYA MEAN YOU DON'T LIKE ZEPPELIN?! THEY'RE ONLY THE GREATEST BAND IN, I DUNNO, THE HISTORY OF EVER!
OTHER DAY I SAW THIS COVER BAND WHO--
THAT'S IT, RABBIT...YOU'RE CUT OFF.
UH, I WAS LOOKING FOR--
BIG LEATHER BOOTH IN THE BACK.
HE'S BEEN EXPECTING YOU.

ARE YOU--?

THAT I AM. HAVE A SEAT.

SO I HEAR Y'ALL ARE WORKING ON SOME EXPANSION PROJECT, BUT YOU GOT A FLY IN THE OINTMENT THAT'S LOOKIN' TO CAUSE TROUBLE.



...YOU CAN CALL ME DOC.
DIST. W. H. NO. 3
Established
TO BE CONTINUED...

Guten tag and welcome to the second issue of KRAMPUS! *As I write this it's only a couple days after Christmas and, needless to say, awareness of the Krampus in North American culture is at an all-time high. A write-up in the Atlantic Journal, appearances on Grimm and American Dad…it looks like we managed to hit on the cusp of a Krampus zeitgeist! It wasn't the plan but I'll certainly take it.*

And we also have mail! What?!? People actually wrote? Crazy-town. Anyway, let's get to it, starting with the first email we received:

Hi!
I absolutely loved it! I'm a big fan of kind of "darker" humour and stuff involving cultural references. I'm a huge Deadpo ol fan, so you can imagine a little hint of a familiar flavour. On a separate note, just out of curiosity, how many issues are you planning on doing? Like a miniseries style thing? Anyways, keep up the good work, Brian, Dean, Ron, and Charles. Merry holidays and yuletide greetings!

Adam Baldwin.

Thanks for the kind words, Adam…I'm glad you appreciated the dark comedy of the piece and the (albeit broad) cultural references with the Santas. As I said, most of my favorite things in the world have a slightly darker humor about them. Happy it clicked with you. And if it conjured memories of Deadpool for you, even better.

As far as the number of issues, of course it depends on sales. Our tentative plan is to make this an ongoing with breaks between storylines. We're committed to doing five issues, which will cover this first storyline; after that, we're hoping to do a "zero issue" in the summer that fills in some of the Krampus's past and sets up the next storyline, which would begin in the fall.

Brian,
Great work on Krampus! It was the perfect book after a day of holiday shopping. I have been recently fascinated by this tradition as well. Between Krampus and some of the original Grimm stories, I don't understand why therapy was not invented earlier. You had me eagerly going to the Internet to learn more about the relics of Saint Nicholas, and the different cultural versions of Santa Claus. One question, though - was Stutgaard based on tradition as well?

Thanks, and looking forward to the next issue!

Joe Iconic

Thanks, Joe! You just expressed a fairly common response that a lot of reviewers have had to the book…that it's a good offset to the holiday shopping/season ennui. And, hey, if I can get a few people to embrace their inner "bah humbug," then I'm doing my job right.

I'm also happy to hear that the book sent you on a recon involving holiday legends. Part of the fun of doing this book was discovering these legends and figuring out how to make them work in the reality we were setting up in the book. There were so many out there I wanted to use but just didn't have room for, which is why I hope to continue this book past this initial storyline. That said, though, Stutgaard is an original creation; there were a couple potential non-reindeer steeds in holiday legends that I could've used (one of which shows up in issue three), but I just really liked the idea of a giant wolf pulling a sleigh of bones through the sky. So Stutgaard is just my contribution to the Krampus's ongoing legend.

Hi there,
So I'd like to start by saying thank you for bringing Krampus to life, it's awesome I love it. I am thanking you because I have known about Krampus for a while now and I must say he is my favorite Xmas story, and being a father I always joke with my wife that my kids will be hearing about Krampus if she is going to have them believe in Santa, so it is great to see this come out! Anyways, I'm excited to see where this goes and will be picking up #2!

Thanks,
Gus

Ha! That's great, Gus. I always think we lost a great child-rearing tool when the Krampus didn't make the jump to modern Christmas sensibilities. If kids behave extra good because

they want to get presents from Santa, imagine how well they'd behave with the threat of a demonic monster layered over that! Glad you liked the book and hope issue two lived up to it!

Hello there, Krampus! creators.

I have never written a letter to any comics creator or publisher before, but I had to write in as soon as I finished reading the first issue of this series. I have also been a longtime fan of the darker side of holidays, and it doesn't get more twisted than Krampus. Just wanted to say I loved the book, and plan on buying it as a gift for several of my comic reading friends this holiday. I know they will love it as much as I did. This ends the ego stroking section of this letter, now on to my question. Do you plan on having Krampus facing off against any other holiday-themed villains or characters, or are you just keeping this within Christmastime lore?

Justin

Glad you liked the book, Justin, and thanks for spreading the Krampus wealth…hopefully your friends dug it all as much as you did. New readers are never a bad thing. And thanks for making us your first comic letter ever! We're honored.

As far as your question goes, as you saw at the end of this issue, we have a whole world of holiday figures to play with. I will say that plans for the next storyline do again feature Christmas-centric figures and legends, but after that? Anything's possible.

Dear Santas Slayers,

Killer job on Krampus! I have been waiting for a Christmas story like this since I watched in horror as Ralphie shot out his own eye! The Secret Society of Santas is a cool twist on St. Nick lore and the artwork is fantastic! I can't wait to read the next issue and see if Krampus gets his nuts cracked.

Merry Christmas,

Tim Balos
Plano, TX

Thanks for the kind words, Tim…especially if you're actually lumping the book with the slice of heaven that is A Christmas Story (Scut Farkus…he had yellow eyes. YELLOW EYES!!). That is a tremendous compliment! That film and its wry humor has always been a favorite… especially the criminally underrated Darren McGavin.

Yeah, Dean's artwork is amazing and a perfect match to what I was going for with the story. And glad the Secret Society resonates with you…I had a lot of fun figuring all of that out.

I had heard the legend of Krampus before reading the first issue, but the interpretation of the legend you are crafting is way more fun. The idea of the "Secret Society of Santas" to explain how Santa can visit every house in the world in one night is just classic. And the fact that none of the members are very nice people makes for great comedy. Besides how could someone give thanklessly for so long and not be a bitter person?

You are setting up variation on the myths of Santa that I believe everyone should read.

Teddy McHugh

Wow…that is high praise indeed, Teddy. Thank you for that! It does seem like a lot of people are gravitating towards the idea of the Secret Society of Santa Clauses…in some cases, even more than the Krampus himself! And like you, a lot of people are enjoying that the Santas can be somewhat unpleasant folks, especially Sinterklaas. But you're right…nobody can be jolly 24/7, I don't care how magical you are.

I enjoyed your first issue. Great read; good art. Loved the Sugar Plum Fairies. Looking forward to the rest.

Krampus looks great; so does Belsnickel. Since the later's name was probably derived from Pelts Nichols, why did you choose Belsnickel instead of Peltznickle? I also wonder why you divided the Santas as you did.

I agree that Ded Moroz is an important holiday gift giver, he cannot serve more than one country? The same could be true for many of the other Santas. I guess I need to question how you define Christmas Magic.

I have pretty much guessed [CENSORED] is the villain. I strongly suspect [CENSORED] is the traitor from the silhouette. I could be wrong. I know there are motivations will be revealed soon.

Krampus's prison looked nicer than my apartment; I'm glad. I read your interview on Comic Book Resources and I too think it would be nice if Krampus met someone special.

In what comic did Felix Navidad and the Ninjabread men appear?

Thank you.
Maficklin

These are some great questions, Maficklin! I'll answer what I can without giving too much away. First, I was aware of Pelznickel but decided to go with Belsnickel, as he was more recognizable to North American audiences, thanks in no small part to The Office. But if Santa can be divided into nineteen individuals, who's to say Pelznickel isn't separate from Belsinckel? We might have plans for him… MAYBE in an aforementioned zero issue.

Regarding Ded Moroz, that actually touches on a question I've received from a few people: namely, why this country or that country's Santa isn't represented in the Society. One thing I haven't really mentioned in the book is that there are a number of countries who have the same (or very similarly-named) Santas. So, Father Christmas, while British in origin, also covers Canada and South Africa. Papa Noel covers most Spanish-speaking countries. A Santa's country of origin does not mean they are exclusively serving that country. Beyond all that, including EVERY Santa would give poor Dean carpal tunnel syndrome (I already have him drawing a lot of crowd scenes as it is) and nobody wants that.

An interesting theory on the people behind it all. I censored your original message (with your permission, of course) so as not to spoil anything for other readers, but I'll say this… you may be on the right path. Or not.

Heh...everyone wants the Krampus to find love! I love it! Well, it won't happen in this initial story as there so much world-building going on, but once we're settled into things and people know the workings of the world…we shall see. There are a few candidates running around out there.

Felix Navidad and the Ninjabread Men were in a comic I wrote for another company that never came out. Sadly, that company owes the rights to those characters (as well as Navidad's "Bond Girl" henchwoman, the Foxy Brown-like Sweet Christmas) so they're off the table. That's just the way it goes sometimes.

Thanks for writing and for the Sugar Plum Fairy love! The very name is so sickly sweet I KNEW I had to make them horrible creatures.

Hi writers Kramp.

I can't tell you how pleased I was to see that a Krampus comic was coming out. Like yourself when I first heard of The Krampus I was over the moon. A Christmas demon is there anything cooler. So to see someone was writing a story about him let's just say I was pretty chuffed. Then to see you were referring to the UK counterpart to Saint Nicholas as Father Christmas just made my day. When I was a child everyone called him Father Christmas but as the years have gone by (I'm 33 now) with imported films and TV referring to him as Santa Claus fewer and fewer people call him Father Christmas anymore. So thank you for that. I loved the arguing within the "secret society of Santa Clauses" and I've got to say I'm already very fond of the crazy old Sinterklass and hope to see him again. I like the art style but I would have liked the Krampus to have looked a little more menacing, he's a bit too cute for my liking. Maybe you could show us that he can turn his face really ugly and monstrous when he needs too. I know you showed the old painting with the guy saying it was a bad representation but this guy is supposed to scare the crap out of kiddies. Oh and don't forget the tongue. Kudos on Stutgaard I loved that. I was also wondering if you might somehow reference the Krampus greetings cards that show him being lecherous towards women that seems to be a popular representation of him. Please keep up the Great work.

Jim Thompson
Portsmouth United Kingdom.

Great letter, Jim! I'm a huge fan of all things English (one of the best compliments I received on the book was that the humor seemed "very English") and I think "Father Christmas" just sounds so much more regal and appropriate for the UK than "Santa Claus." That was part of the reason I made him the head of the Society. And you're not alone in your love of Sinterklaas…he's definitely a favorite of mine to write. We'll see more of him throughout the series for certain.

Some people have been wondering about the Krampus look, with some knocking us for not going scarier. I can understand that, but I definitely stand by the design Dean came up with, which was based on my desire to have a face that could be super-expressive, regardless of the emotion. I don't know if some of the traditional Krampus images out there could be used to covey anything but "oh my god this thing is going to kill me" moments. Still, we may yet see the Krampus fully unleashed.

And as for the lecherous behavior towards women…there may be a smattering of that in issue three. But it's definitely something to consider going forward.

Hey guys...

My local comic shop put Krampus #1 in my subscription box. They must have known I'd be obligated to pick it up since my friends and I have spearheaded a Krampus event that follows the Santa pub crawls in our town.

Luckily for everyone involved, I enjoyed your comic and plan to pick up subsequent issues.

I thought the attached photos might be relevant to your interests. They portray the first of two KrampusKon 2013 events. Feel free to share with your readers.

Love,

Django

Django, I love that your shop tossed the first issue into your box...it's always great when a shop knows its customers well enough to steer them in the direction of books they suspect they'd like, even if the book wasn't necessarily on their radar. I'm also glad you enjoyed the book...but that should go without saying.

Thank you for the KrampusKon pics! Love them! And happy to run them (see the next page). Like I said at the start, Krampus is making his move in North America this year. If you guys ever happen to get into a rumble with a SantaCon crawl, you'll have to make sure to get pics and send it my way.

AND...I believe that's everything! I hope everyone had a happy holiday season and we'll see you back here next month! Due to the production schedule, unless we receive a glut of letters on issue #1 prior to the print date, we probably won't have letters to run in issue three, so instead we'll do some behind-the-scenes feature. But in the interim, if you have any commentary, compliments, or criticisms of issues 1 or 2, please send them to us at krampusletters@gmail.com. And please mention whether the email is okay to print or not, either in the subject or the body of the letter.

Thanks for reading and the support, everyone! Spread the word if you like the book (and keep quiet if you don't!) and see you in 30-ish.

Brian Joines
Portland, OR
12/26/13

HOLD YOUR BREATH

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USER'S GUIDE TO THE SECRET SOCIETY OF SANTA CLAUSES

1. Father Christmas.....United Kingdom
2. Weihnachtsmann.....Germany
3. Hoteiosho.....Japan
4. Sinterklaas.....Netherlands
5. Agios Vassilis.....Greece
6. Baba Chaghaloo .....Afghanistan
7. Mos Craciun.....Romania
8. Ded Moroz.....Russia
9. Kaghand Papik.....Armenia
10. Kris Kringle.....United States
11. Dun Che Lao Ren.....China
12. Papa Noel.....Spain
13. Vader Kersfees.....Iraq
14. Joulupukki.....Finland
15. Daidi Na Nollaig .....Ireland
16. Pere Noel.....France
17. Karacsony Apo.....Hungary
18. Kanakaloka.....Pacific Islands
19. Babbo Natale.....Italy

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